

To: Tremblay, Christopher[ctremblay@wdbl.ca]
From: Brown, Carolyn[cbrown@citywindsor.ca]
Sent: Fri 2/25/2022 11:14:41 AM (UTC-05:00)
Subject: FW: Protest Update 2-14-22

See contact info below.

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

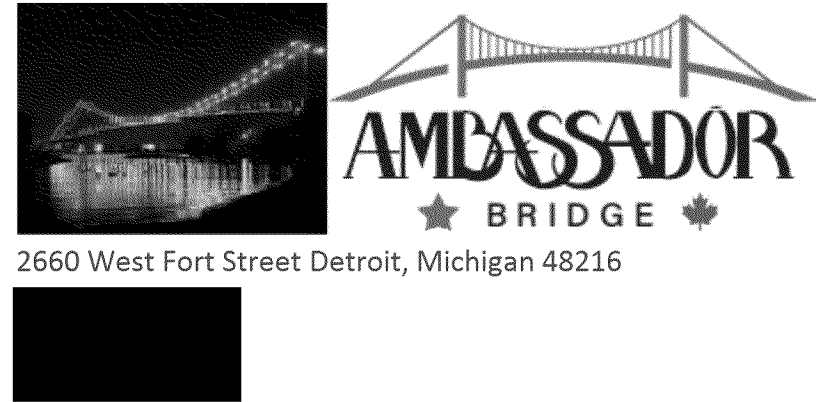
From: Randy Spader <rspader@ambassadorbridge.com>
Date: 2022-02-15 8:32 a.m. (GMT-05:00)
To: Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>, Stephanie Dafoe <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>, "Petainen, Peter (MDOT)" <PetainenP@michigan.gov>, timsturick <timsturick@tibridge.com>, "Winn, Amy (MDOT)" <WinnA@michigan.gov>, "Brown, Carolyn" <cbrown@citywindsor.ca>, "Dedecker, Joe" <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>, Kenneth Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>, Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>, Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>, Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>, Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>
Subject: RE: Protest Update 2-14-22

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Thanks for the update Ron and the insight on how your protest disruption was. This has been a definite experience we need to protect ourselves from in the future. The Cat and Mouse game was crazy and frustrating here at the beginning.

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company



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From: Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 5:06 PM
To: Stephanie Dafoe <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Petainen, Peter (MDOT) <PetainenP@michigan.gov>; Randy Spader <rspader@ambassadorbridge.com>; timsturick <timsturick@tibridge.com>; Winn, Amy (MDOT) <WinnA@michigan.gov>; Carolyn Brown <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; Dedecker, Joe <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; Kenneth Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Protest Update 2-14-22

*****EXTERNAL email. Please proceed with caution.*****

All,

Well that was some weekend!!

To prepare for the arrival of the Freedom Convoy, we had preplanned with law enforcement and the Town of Fort Erie how we would keep the Peace Bridge open. This involved us barricading our property at the property line at the terminus of the QEW with our snow plows. The OPP would divert all cars at the last exit and PBA would vet all trucks at the normal truck exit off the QEW to keep trucks flowing.

Just as we were pulling our trucks into position the OPP changed plans and closed the QEW 6 kms up the QEW at the Gilmore Rd exit. While it had the effect of diverting the convoy further away it now also put all the U.S. bound trucks onto local roads to find their way to the bridge. We had predetermined multiple exit points out of our plaza if protesters would have been successful stopping Canada bound traffic from getting onto the QEW. While they tried to do that, they were not successful as protester vehicles could not get there, only pedestrians, and the police were able to keep one lane of traffic flowing. (see photo). Throughout the weekend we had no issues for Canada bound traffic, even though there were protests on the U.S. side both Saturday and Sunday.

To handle the trucks that were forced off the QEW, we changed the exit points to ingress points, and we were able to get many trucks onto the Bridge via these "backways". (see pics). The challenge was that the protesters then tried to stop these ingress points so we played cat and mouse for two days identifying which access point worked best until that got closed off and we moved to another.. The police were quite impressed! That worked fine for Saturday and Sunday morning given our low commercial traffic volumes during that time but I warned police command that would not work so well Sunday afternoon and evening given much higher volumes. Sure enough, about mid afternoon traffic volumes increased and the police felt that our little shell game was attracting protester reinforcements to assist in stopping this. The decision was made to return any trucks that reached us to the LQ bridge and thereby cut off the oxygen that was fueling the protesters. Of course that had the effect of overwhelming the 405 and the LQ bridge resulting in a double stacked queue almost all the way back to the 405/QEW split, queues reached 7-8 kms, see pic below.

WIN00001031



Just as with Stephanie's experience our staff was subject to all kinds of abuse and vulgarities as we tried to get truckers across the bridge. While I was attempting to get a truck turned in the right direction to return to the LQ, a woman shouted something at me so I yelled back at her "do you support the truckers?" "Hell Ya," she screamed, "we support the truckers". So I said to her, "Ask the truck driver behind me if he feels supported as you make him drive all the way back to the LQ bridge where he will wait hours to cross into the U.S." She had this befuddled look on her face for a few seconds and then screamed " We support freedom. Support freedom!" Unbelievable.

Just a funny anecdote. As I was in a pick-up escorting a truck to one of the ingress points to get onto the bridge, a protestor with a rottweiler on 20 foot leash stepped in front of me. The leash was bound around his waist so that if he got into an altercation with police the dog would always be with him. As I inched forward my front tire stopped on the leash preventing him and his dog from moving very much. Of course that led to a cascade of vulgarities and me being called everything under the sun. Naturally, I couldn't let the irony of the moment slip away so I didn't move. When I had the opportunity in the midst of tirade I asked him: "How does it feel not being able to move." That set him off again. The policeman walking over was trying hard not to laugh, as he tried to be professional. After about 5 minutes of talking to the protestor the police asked me to move forward off the leash and I was able to get the truck to the ingress point. It was classic!

We are planning a post event session with law enforcement to see what worked well and what didn't and what can be

improved. The police believe that the weekend, from their perspective was a tremendous success. While it is true we managed to prevent an Ambassador Bridge type of situation and police did not make any arrests, it was not a success from a “keep the border open” objective. The police blockade on the QEW at Gilmore Rd had the desired effect that the protesters wanted, preventing traffic from getting across the bridge to the U.S. and seriously congesting the LQ Bridge resulting in hours long delays.

Ron Rienas
General Manager
Buffalo & Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority

100 Queen Street, Fort Erie, ON L2A 3S6 | 1 Peace Bridge Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14213
rr@peacebridge.com | F 905-871-9940 | F 716-884-2089 |

From: Stephanie Dafoe <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 11:00 AM
To: Petainen, Peter (MDOT) <PetainenP@michigan.gov>; Randy Spader <rspader@ambassadorbridge.com>; Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>; timsturick <timsturick@tibridge.com>; Winn, Amy (MDOT) <WinnA@michigan.gov>; Carolyn Brown <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; Dedecker, Joe <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; Kenneth Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>
Subject: RE: Protest Update 2-14-22

It has been a very long weekend here in Niagara and unfortunately Ron @ Peace took the brunt of it. Which I am sure he will update the group. Truck delays yesterday reached as far as 7.5km back from the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge. This morning we are at 4kms back but it appears the OPP blockade of the QEW Fort Erie bound has just been removed so now that trucks can flow to Peace Bridge as well I am hoping we will see this dissipate quickly.

No protest activity at Lewiston-Queenston with the exception of one individual who may have been dealing with some mental health issues showed up to disrupt the convoy. Police were called to remove him.

Rainbow Bridge had protest activity Saturday from about 3pm to about 8pm. We staged at entrance and vetted traffic before it entered the span. The protestors kept moving for the most part and shouted obscenities, gave us the finger and honked their horns. With the price of gas it got old pretty quick and they took off by about 8pm.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Dafoe
Chief Operating Officer
Niagara Falls Bridge Commission

P.O. Box 395, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T8 | 5365 Military Road, Lewiston, NY 14092
sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com | F 905-353-6696 | F 716-205-0696 |

From: Petainen, Peter (MDOT) <PetainenP@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:45 AM
To: Randy Spader <rspader@ambassadorbridge.com>; Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>; timsturick <timsturick@tibridge.com>; Winn, Amy (MDOT) <WinnA@michigan.gov>; Carolyn Brown <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; Dedecker, Joe <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; Kenneth Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; Stephanie Dafoe <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>
Subject: Re: Protest Update 2-14-22

Good Morning Randy,

Very happy to see you open again. Well done on a difficult (that’s an understatement) week. I got off very lucky by comparison. Quiet up here. Open and no impact to traffic. 10-12 protesters only during the day – the weather and extreme low temperatures were effective deterrents. Police presence on the plaza 24/7 outnumbered protesters.

WIN00001031

One vehicle attempted to block a city intersection on Saturday. Police gave fair warning and, per the Deputy Police Chief, a battering ram next to the window of the pickup convinced the protester of the wisdom to move along. Charges are pending.

I sincerely wish everyone a very quiet week.

Pete

From: Randy Spader <rspader@ambassadorbridge.com>

Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 at 10:15

To: Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>, "M. Sturick Timothy" <timsturick@tibridge.com>, Amy Winn <WinnA@michigan.gov>, Carolyn Brown <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>, Joe Dedecker <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>, Ken Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>, Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>, "Petainen, Peter (MDOT)" <PetainenP@michigan.gov>, Dafoe Stephanie <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>, Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>, Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>, Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

Subject: Protest Update 2-14-22

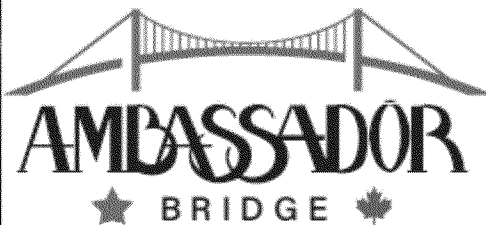
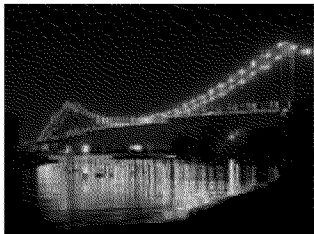
CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Happy Monday Everyone,

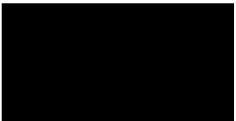
We opened at approximately 11pm last night. Protesters were moved off Huron Church around 11am yesterday but many continued to arrive and tried to re-take Huron Church but law enforcement was able to keep them to the west and east of the main roadway. Over 25 arrested and at least 3 vehicles towed off Huron Church and many more from the side streets. They are putting barrier down to close off Huron Church Road to prevent access from the east and west. Still heavy police presents to prevent spur ups. What a week for us all!!! Anything happening in your areas?

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company



2660 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48216



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From: Randy Spader

Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:12 AM

To: 'Ron Rienas' <rr@peacebridge.com>; 'timsturick' <timsturick@tibridge.com>; 'Amy Winn-VanHoeck' <WinnA@michigan.gov>; 'Carolyn Brown' <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; 'Dedecker, Joe' <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; 'Ken Bieger' <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Neal Belitsky' <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; 'Petainen, Peter (MDOT)' <petainenp@michigan.gov>; 'Stephanie Dafoe' <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Steve Lawrence' <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; 'Wade Dorland' <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

WIN00001031

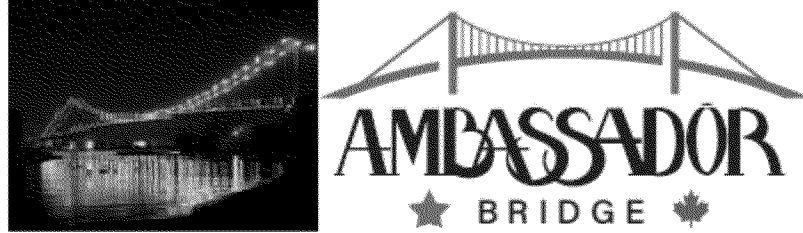
Subject: RE: Protest Update 2-12-22

Good Morning All,

Update- At approximately 830am, Law Enforcement Agencies arrived on site and started to show their presence to all the protesters and we started to see some leave on their own. Tents are down but there are still vehicle and about 60 to 80 Protesters still blocking the roadway. The officers have formed a line in the sand with equipment and manpower to try and disburse the remaining protesters and their equipment. Everything has been peaceful up to this point. I will keep you updated and hoping to have this crossing back open very soon.

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company



2660 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48216



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From: Randy Spader

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 7:24 AM

To: 'Ron Rienas' <rr@peacebridge.com>; 'timsturick' <timsturick@tibridge.com>; 'Amy Winn-VanHoeck' <WinnA@michigan.gov>; 'Carolyn Brown' <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; 'Dedecker, Joe' <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; 'Ken Bieger' <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Neal Belitsky' <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; 'Petainen, Peter (MDOT)' <petainenp@michigan.gov>; 'Stephanie Dafoe' <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Steve Lawrence' <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; 'Wade Dorland' <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

Subject: RE: Protest Update 2-10-22

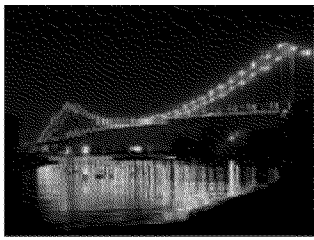
Good Morning Everyone,

Last night at approx.. 1130pm, protesters blocked access to our entrance to the US coming off of Wyandotte Street. This has closed all of my access to the US. OPP is now on site as the Mayor of Windsor asked for assistance from the providence yesterday. We are seeing a growth in protesters especially in the late afternoon into the evenings, as I believe these are protesters that have jobs and coming to support after. As we get closer to the weekend, I think we will see a large growth in numbers. As of now we are seeing 250+ protesters and approx. 100 vehicles either in the blockade or parked on the side. Plants are shutting down due to lack of supplies in Canada and the US as we all have heard. Any update in your areas?

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company

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2660 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48216



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From: Randy Spader

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7:42 AM

To: 'Ron Rienas' <rr@peacebridge.com>; 'timsturick' <timsturick@tibridge.com>; 'Amy Winn-VanHoeck' <WinnA@michigan.gov>; 'Carolyn Brown' <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; 'Dedecker, Joe' <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; 'Ken Bieger' <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Neal Belitsky' <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; 'Petainen, Peter (MDOT)' <petainenp@michigan.gov>; 'Stephanie Dafoe' <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Steve Lawrence' <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; 'Wade Dorland' <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

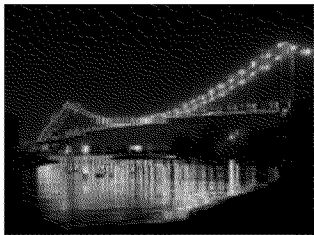
Subject: RE: Protest Update 2-9-22

Good Morning Everyone,

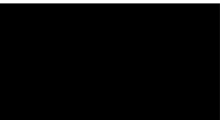
At approximately 830pm, the protesters closed Northbound Huron Church off again. Currently North and Southbound Huron Church is blocked off. We still have access for US bound traffic using our Wyandotte Entrance for trucks and cars to us to enter the US. Canada bound is still closed Windsor Police is still looking for a negotiated resolution at this time. There is supposed to be an update from the mayor's office today. I will continue to update.

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company



2660 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48216



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From: Randy Spader

Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:03 PM

To: 'Ron Rienas' <rr@peacebridge.com>; 'timsturick' <timsturick@tibridge.com>; 'Amy Winn-VanHoeck' <WinnA@michigan.gov>;

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'Carolyn Brown' <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; 'Dedecker, Joe' <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; 'Ken Bieger' <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Neal Belitsky' <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; 'Petainen, Peter (MDOT)' <petainenp@michigan.gov>; 'Stephanie Dafoe' <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; 'Steve Lawrence' <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; 'Wade Dorland' <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

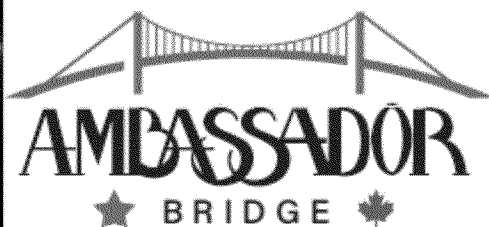
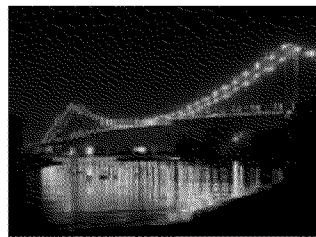
Subject: Protest Update 2-8-22

Protest 2-8-22

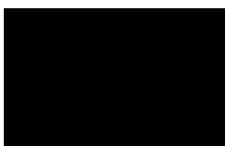
Currently the protesters have moved off of the Northbound lanes of Huron Church allowing full access to the bridge for US bound traffic. Canada bound is still closed at this time. Will continue to update if anything else changes.

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company



2660 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48216



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From: Randy Spader

Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:40 AM

To: Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>; timsturick <timsturick@tibridge.com>; Amy Winn-VanHoeck <WinnA@michigan.gov>; Carolyn Brown <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; Dedecker, Joe <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; Ken Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; Petainen, Peter (MDOT) <petainenp@michigan.gov>; Stephanie Dafoe <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>

Subject: RE: Protest 2-7-2022 Update

Update from today. At approximately 1pm this afternoon, we had some different protesting groups show up that caused flow to stop going into Canada just south of College. Windsor PD could not work this these new groups which caused very slow movement between 130pm and 430pm by blocking all lanes leaving the bridge heading into Canada. By 5pm all lanes come to a stop. At this time we have diverted all Canada bound traffic to alternate crossings. These groups are staying in place and continue to block all lanes coming into Canada and we continue to divert traffic. North bound Huron Church is also being blocked for US bound traffic but our alternate entrance is still open at this time. Windsor Police is trying to connect with the leader of these new groups but have had very little luck finding these leaders. We continue monitoring and I will keep all updated.

From: Randy Spader

Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 11:42 AM

To: Ron Rienas <rr@peacebridge.com>; timsturick <timsturick@tibridge.com>; Amy Winn-VanHoeck <WinnA@michigan.gov>; Carolyn Brown <cbrown@city.windsor.on.ca>; Dedecker, Joe <jdedecker@federalbridge.ca>; Ken Bieger <kbieger@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Neal Belitsky <nbelitsky@dwtunnel.com>; Petainen, Peter (MDOT) <petainenp@michigan.gov>; Stephanie Dafoe <sdafoe@niagarafallsbridges.com>; Steve Lawrence <slawrence@ogdensport.com>; Wade Dorland <wdorland@sibc.ca>; Dan Stamper <dstamper@centraltransport.com>; Randy Spader <rspader@ambassadorbridge.com>

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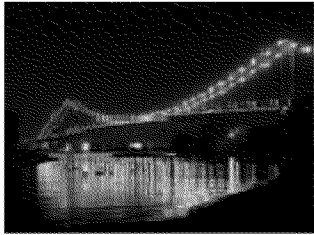
Subject: Protest 2-7-2022 Update

Good Afternoon Everyone,

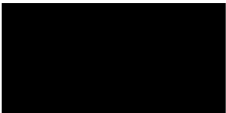
I want to give everyone an update on the current status here at the Ambassador Bridge. We have about 100 cars/pickup trucks and a hand full of transport trucks that left their staging area around 1115am. Intel is stating they are going to continue a slow roll as they have been doing for the last couple of weeks. We are hearing some chatter on social about a blockade on streets around the bridge and will be monitoring their activity once on site along with any vehicle types that may be joining the protesters along the way. Windsor Police Services is actively engaged and are spread out to ensure the far left lane remains open for through traffic and emergency vehicles. Will keep everyone updated as the day goes on. Anything happening in your neck of the woods?

Sincerely,
Randy Spader
General Manager / IT

Detroit International Bridge Company



2660 West Fort Street Detroit, Michigan 48216



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